

AUTOMATED SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR PROCESSING PRESCRIPTIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An automated system and method for processing
prescription requests is disclosed, whereby a patient or
physician enters a prescription request to an automated
pharmacy prescription processing system. For example, a
request for a new or refill prescription can be
transmitted from a physician's office to the prescription
processing system as a digital file or facsimile message,
or using keypad or voice commands in an Interactive Voice
Response (IVR) system running in the prescription
10 processing system. A request for a prescription refill
can also be entered by a patient using an IVR system, or
the patient can physically carry the refill prescription
request to a pharmacy for entry to the prescription
15 processing system by a technician. The automated
pharmacy system determines whether the new or refill
prescription request can be filled by a central fill
inventory. The automated pharmacy prescription
processing system sends eligible, pending prescription
20 requests to an automated central fill prescription
request processing system. The automated central fill
processing system processes and fills each valid
prescription request from a central fill inventory,
initiates a quality assurance procedure to double-check
25 each prescription to be filled, labels the double-
checked, approved prescriptions, and routes them to a
staging area for shipment to the appropriate pharmacy
stores.